(b) No study has been conducted in this regard. It is also difficult to undertake such study due to varying conditions from place to place.

(c) No formal proposal has been received in the Ministry. However, Confederation of Indian Industry (C.I.I.) has made a presentation on a study report titled "Public Private Partnership in Re-Greening of Degraded Revenue/Private/Forest Land-Cost Benefit Analysis" in the Ministry supporting plantation of 1.2 million ha. of degraded land in 7 years by paper industry under Public-Private Partnership.

Pollution in river system in Kerala

910. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Supreme Court appointed committee has come down heavily on the Kerala State Pollution Control Board for its failure to stop industries from polluting crucial river system such as the Periyar;

(b) whether it is a fact that Kerala had no treatment, storage and disposal facility and several industrial units in Kerala did not have authorisation as required under the rules and they openly flouted the provisions of the Air and Water Acts; and

(c) if so, the action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The State Government and the State Pollution Control Board have initiated a number of actions such as:

- establishment of treatment, storage and disposal facility for hazardous waste;
- Constitution of a Local Area Committee to conduct environmental audit of industrial units in the area that are affecting the ecology and environment and the local health of population along Periyar and in Udyogamandal Industrial Estate;

- identification and sealing of unauthorized outlets and ensuring that there are no illegal discharges in Periyar;
- ensuring that the units are complying with environmental laws.

Household garbage from European nations

911. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gujarat is fast becoming a dumping ground for household garbage from the European nations;

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that even though the Ministry had banned import of household garbage, an Irish company had managed to get an NOC from a Municipality in Gujarat and was exporting garbage to a Kalol based recycling plant near Mehsana; and

(c) if so, whether Government have made any investigations to find out how household garbage is illegally imported into the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per the reports received from the Gujarat Pollution Control Board (GPCB), a no objection certificate (NOC) was found to have been issued to M/s Well Pack Papers and Containers Limited, Kalol, Distt. Mehsana in Gujarat. However, after an inquiry by the vigilance cell of the Gujarat Pollution Control Board, it was found that the NOC was not authentic. GPCB has, further, informed that the imported waste was not household garbage but mixed paper waste, which is allowed for recycling under EXIM policy.

Damage to Manas and Orang National Park by flood

912. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken, so far, by Government for the restoration of some portions of various National Parks and sanctuaries like Manas and Orang in Assam where heavy damage was caused due to devastating flood in the State, recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and